

Crossroads xtra

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Today

Scattered Clouds

High 66
Low 60



Saturday

Overcast

High 66
Low 59



Sunday

Chance of Rain

High 66
Low 60



Honoring the fallen

Lajes Airmen, Portuguese AF honor WWII British heroes

By Staff Sgt.
Olufemi Owolabi
65th ABW Public Affairs

Honoring fallen heroes is a tradition the military embraces dearly, and Airmen stationed here did not make an exemption to upholding the tradition even if it is honoring other nation's heroes.

Even impending unfavorable weather conditions did not stop Lajes Airmen from attending a memorial service conducted at the British Cemetery here Nov. 14 by the Portuguese air force to honor fallen Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers who died on Terceira Island during World War II.

"The decision to participate in this particular service was based on a tradition of honoring our fallen comrades," said Chaplain (Maj.) William Bartoul, 65th Air Base Wing chaplain. "In military cemeteries around the world, wherever there are fallen warriors who fought side-by-side with Americans in the causes of freedom and justice, we try to offer our



Maj. Gen. Rui Mora de Oliveira, Azores Air Zone commander, and Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, render a salute after placing the wreaths at the memorial during a service held here Nov. 14 to honor fallen servicemen who died on Terceira Island during World War II. The service was conducted in observance of Veterans Day, and it honors 49 servicemen who served with the British Armed Forces from 1943 to 1946. (Photo by Guido Melo)

thankfulness in two ways: Remembering (not forgetting the lessons of our history) and Celebration (joyful or somber formal gathering in purposeful ritual)."

The cemetery is the resting place for 49 servicemen who served here with the British

Armed Forces from 1943 through 1946. The World War II Remembrance Service was conducted in observance of Veterans Day (Armistice Day in Portugal).

To read the entire story, visit, www.lajes.af.mil.

Tops In Blue talent search underway

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas
— Tops In Blue, the Air Force's premiere entertainment showcase, is accepting applications until Dec. 2 for its 2009 talent search.

The 2009 talent call encourages vocalists, instrumentalists, dancers, and nonmusical talent such as comedians, dramatists, and magicians to submit an application and audition video.

Airmen with skills in audio, lighting, staging, video, and even driving, are also being recruited. All Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard members are eligible to compete.

Top applicants will vie for first and second place trophies during the Air Force Worldwide Talent

Search Competition Jan. 11 through 19 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. In addition to the trophies, contestants compete in various performing arts programs that include dance and musical auditions. These special events, along with the contest, will help officials evaluate the talent potential of each contestant for possible nomination to the 2009 Tops In Blue team.

Fifty-five years ago, the Air Force Talent Program began with local auditions. Today, the process is streamlined to expedite and expand auditioning opportunities.

To read the entire story, visit, www.lajes.af.mil.

Move Iron—Global Comm—Ready Airmen—Bilateral Relations

Reflecting on Thanksgiving

By Col. Roderick Dorsey
65th Mission Support Group commander

As we stroll into November, the first thing to hit me is that it's nearly time to celebrate Thanksgiving—one of my favorite holidays!

For me it's not just the turkey and sweet potato pie, but the fond memories of time with family and taking time to really think about how blessed we are as a nation and as an Air Force family.

When I consider how far we have come as a republic and how that compares with the vision of our founding fathers, I am truly humbled. They were close enough to the issue to understand fully what was involved in birthing a new nation as well as the responsibility that comes with it. This is a responsibility in which we all share a part... "To whom much has been given, much is required". We're certainly not perfect, but we have to keep working on it.

Last fall I got a note regarding Lt. Col. Sam Walker. Sam was a friend of mine, and we had flown together and known one another since the late 1990s. He was an energetic officer and family man with an above-average zest for life. Unfortunately, the news I got was not so good. Sam had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and had for the past 12 months been treated with no real progress. He was preparing to go into the surgery that would either take care of the issue or take his life. Having had such a prolonged period to consider his situation, he had taken full advantage of the time and had obviously had all of the difficult discussions with his family and loved ones. I can assure you that he had absolutely no problem figuring out what was important in his life and how thankful he should be for his gifts.

At his funeral service, they published a portion of a letter that he had written to his three sons who ranged in age from 6-10 years.

To read the entire story, visit, www.lajes.af.mil.

Action Line: Why are we paying so much for gas?

Question: I'm coming to you for a clear answer concerning the price of gas at the base gas station. Since early summer, the price of gas jumped to \$4.92 a gallon. Lajes always seems to be the first to hike gas prices when oil goes up, and not by two or three cents. However since at least July the gas prices in the United States have been steadily going down and, all of the other European bases are under \$4. Why is it taking so long for Lajes to catch up?

Answer: This is an excellent question and one I've been curious about myself. It is particularly compelling given that premium gas at the pump in the United States is below \$3 per gallon in many locations. Needless to say, we are in a unique situation here on Terceira. Please let me outline the factors and agencies involved with providing our fuel.

The first question that comes up is why our prices are so much different from the United States, and then why they are so much different from other bases in Europe. Due to our remote location AAFES purchases fuel for Lajes and Incirlik through the Defense Energy Support Center. DESC sets their price annually as a way to insulate the

Military Services from the normal ups and downs of the fuel marketplace. All other European bases have suppliers available locally that allow them to adjust prices more frequently.

When fuel prices are above the DESC "Floor price" but are changing significantly back in the States, the standard approach is to adjust for stateside averages once per month. When the pricing becomes more volatile, fuel prices may be adjusted twice per month and even weekly. Unfortunately, these adjustments aren't an option as long as our floor price remains as high as it is.

DESC set our new fiscal price on Oct. 1 at \$4.71 per gallon. This is the minimum that AAFES may charge for the fuel. With some quick math you can see that they are taking only a \$.21 per gallon margin to handle facilities, inventory and wages. I'd say that they are doing all they can right now to minimize the impact of our current pricing on customers' budgets.

Given that we cannot sell the fuel at a loss, we will be paying the current price until the DESC standard price is adjusted. We have been in contact with DESC leadership and they have informed us that they are planning for a price adjustment in early December.

The large difference in the current market price of fuel and what DESC is paying costs the DoD millions of dollars a month. One of the primary DESC management tenets is that they remain solvent and not take too large a profit or loss. So based on the large disparity and DESC leadership's position, I believe that there is a very high possibility of relief for Lajes and Incirlik in the next month. I appreciate you taking the time to submit this question — I'm certain that this is on many people's minds right now.

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work

problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, e-mail the Commander's Line at actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Peggy Poore

The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

The 65th ABW Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday, a week prior to the publication date. For more

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THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS

Honoring the fallen



Chaplain (Maj.) William Bartoul, 65th Air Base Wing, and a Portuguese air force chaplain, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Moisés do Couto Rocha, deliver the invocation during a service held here Nov. 14 to honor fallen servicemembers who died on Terceira during World War II. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Lajes School Career Day ...

(Above) Lt. Col. Mark Lantz explains the process of an F-16 after-burner to students from the Lajes Elementary/High School during their visit to the flightline as part of the school's Career Day program organized for the students Nov. 13. Colonel Lantz is a fighter pilot with the 421st Fighter Squadron stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Brett McCarrier shows a 7th-grade student the inside of an F-16 Fighting Falcon's cockpit. Sergeant McCarrier, from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, is here on temporary duty en-route to deployment to the Area of Responsibility. The students were able to visit the flightline as part of the school's Career Day program. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)



Breakfast with AFN



Staff Sgt. Catherine Carbullido serves eggs to Master Sgt. Robert Lucas, 65th Medical Group, for his breakfast taco during a free breakfast with Lajes Defense Media Activity Nov. 7 at the base chapel. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)

Girl Scouts: Thanks



Junior Girl Scout Troop 12 and the First Sergeants Council would like to express their appreciation to the commissary and the members of the community who contributed to their Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive on Nov. 15. The generous support far exceeded their objectives and will ensure military families can all enjoy this holiday. Thank you! (Courtesy photo)



Mark your calendar

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament: The American Indian Heritage Month Committee will be asking Lajes' basketball players to come out from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Chace Fitness Center to participate in a 3-on-3 Basketball tournament (with one substitution). There will be an entry fee of \$20. The winners will take

home a 1st place trophy and the right to be called the best on the rock. The remainder of the proceeds will go to one of the American Indian CFC funds.

Commissary Early Closure: The commissary will close at 4 p.m. Thursday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Crossroads Xtra: The Crossroads will not be published next week. The next issue is Dec. 5.

Heartlink: An orientation for new Air Force spouses is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Learn about benefits and meet other spouses. Free lunch and prizes included. Childcare help available. For details or to register, call 535-4138.

Organic Market Tour: The Health and Wellness Center leads an organic market tour the last Saturday of each month. Meet at the commissary at 8:45 a.m. Nov. 29 to attend. Bring Euro to make purchases. Sign-up through the HAWC at 535-4292.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: 5:45 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Beira Mar Gate. For more information call the chapel at 535-4211. The library will be open until 9 p.m. that evening and will offer refreshments after the ceremony.

Volunteer Opportunities

Video Production Volunteer:

Great experience and the opportunity to learn how to work with digital media, like filming and editing. Some basic experience is necessary to learn videography. Volunteers should have knowledge of Adobe software and some knowledge of graphics or web design is desirable. Must commit to volunteering at least 20 hours a week. Position is in the Services marketing and publicity office. Contact Paulette Burnard at 535-6324 for additional information.

Volunteers for the Awana program:

If you are interested in volunteering with the Awana program, call the chapel at 535-4211 or Rosetta Robertson at 295-549-261

At the Movies

Admission: Free

Location: Community Center

6 p.m. Friday - Death Race (Rated R)

2 p.m. Saturday - Death Race (Rated R)

6 p.m. Saturday - Star Wars: Clone Wars (PG)

2 p.m. Sunday - Star Wars: Clone Wars (PG)



Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them. Schedule subject to change. For updates, call 535-4135.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads or the Air Force.

Housekeeper Available: Maria has worked for us for more than two years. She is trustworthy and dependable. For a reference call 968-660-962 or call 962-680-191 to request a day.

For Sale: 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Automatic! Tires, brake pads, rotors, water pump, muffler, & exhaust all less than 1 yr old. Newly installed radio/cd player. Inspection good 'til Mar '09! Runs great! Price is \$3,500 firm. Call Sandy at 926-588-206 or 295-516-136.

Nanny Available: Julie has been with us for about 3 yrs now helping us raise our 3-year old son. She's awesome! We've even chosen her to be Phelix' Godmother. She is available to be your full-time Nanny & babysits evenings or weekends if needed. She also cleans houses for inspections or weekly if needed! Call Sandy at 961-254-619, or 295-516-136.

LAJES COMMUNITY BOARD

Turkey Day Dining

SUM Lunch: A Thanksgiving meal will be served at the chapel from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. by commander's and first sergeants for all single and unaccompanied members.

TORC Thanksgiving Buffet: Noon to 5 p.m. Roasted Turkey w/gravy, roast beef, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce and the full salad bar. Pumpkin pie and more. Cost \$8.95 - Members get 10 percent off. \$3.95 for children 12 and under. Free for children 5 and under. For details, call 535-1122/3202.



Outdoor Rec Trips

Dolphin Watching Trip: 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 29. \$50

Kid's Paintball: 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 29. Age 9-12; 2 to 4 p.m. Age 13-18, cost is \$15

A Cultural and Culinary Adventure: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 29. Cost is \$50. For more trips, visit www.lajes-services.com.

